

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 12. Thus, claim 11 is the only claim now pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 defines patentable subject matter.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,962; hereafter "Adachi"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of *only some* of the slots;

wherein each of the notch portions comprises a linear slit extending only partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

Applicant respectfully submit that Adachi does not teach or suggest that claimed notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of only some of the slots.

As shown in FIG. 10, Adachi discloses that slits 60 are provided each slot 21a of the stator core in order to easily form the belt-like laminated body 50 into a cylindrical shape during manufacture of the stator. See column 2, line 57 - column 3, line 19 of Adachi.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/635,611

On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 15 of the present application, the notch portions 20 are provided as a linear slit when a band plate is cut from a strip steel plate, and the band plate is wound helically and formed cylindrically. In other words, in the stator of FIG. 15, it is not necessary to provide the notch portion in every slot. As a result, performance degradation based on providing many slits can be reduced.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 would not have been rendered obvious in view of Adachi because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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